

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for detecting orientation of a component, comprising the steps of:  
  
placing a component having asymmetric upper and lower outer shapes on a reference surface having a reference block;

bringing an outer peripheral part of the component on the reference surface into contact with the reference block; and

identifying the top-bottom orientation of the component based on a gap created between the outer peripheral part of the component and the reference block.

2. (Original) The method for detecting orientation of a component according to claim 1, wherein

the reference block is tapered in a portion abutting the outer peripheral part of the component.

3. (Original) The method for detecting orientation of a component according to claim 1, wherein

the reference block has a shape conforming to part or all of a cross-sectional shape of the outer peripheral part of the component in a portion abutting the outer peripheral part of the component.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting orientation of a component according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein

the reference block has a mirror surface in a portion abutting the outer peripheral part of the component.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting orientation of a component according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein

the component is any one of a disk-like component, a cylindrical component, and an annular component.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting orientation of a component according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein

the component is a piston ring.

7. (Original) A device for detecting orientation of a component comprising:

a reference surface on which a component having asymmetric upper and lower outer shapes is placed;

a reference block with which an outer peripheral part of the component placed on the reference surface is brought into contact; and

a light source lighting device and a detection camera arranged opposite each other across the reference block.